

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 136987
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 H-01 SIG-03
SSO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PA-01 HA-05 INR-10 INRE-00
PM-05 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 OMB-01 /086 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:FZBROWN/FMLC
APPROVED BY EA:ROAKLEY
EA/TIMBS:LROCKE
AID/FFP:DSHAUGHNESSY
AID/ASIA:MADLER
H:DKENNEY

-----017452 310138Z /62S
O 310040Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136987

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, LA, US, TH

SUBJECT: PL 480 ASSISTANCE TO LAOS

REF: 1. STATE 135964; 2. BANGKOK 15309

1. REGRETTABLY, NEWS OF DECISION ON GRANTING FOOD AID TO
LAOS HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO LEAK. WE ARE THEREFORE OBLIGED
TO MAKE NOTIFICATIONS ON CAPITOL HILL AT ONCE, AND IT IS
ANTICIPATED THAT DECISION WILL BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE
WITHIN NEXT FEW HOURS. EMBASSY SHOULD THEREFORE PLAN TO
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NOTIFY RTG OF OUR DECISION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS CONCERN RAISED IN REF B ABOUT
RTG REACTION TO SHIPMENT OF U.S. RICE TO LAOS VIA THAILAND.
HOWEVER, SINCE DONATION IS BEING MADE UNDER PL 480 TITLE II
AUTHORITY, PURCHASE OF THAI RICE FOR SHIPMENT TO LAOS CANNOT
RPT CANNOT BE CONSIDERED. PREVIOUS CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH

U.S. PURCHASED RICE IN THAILAND FOR SHIPMENT TO LAOS NO LONGER OBTAIN. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT U.S. DONATION WILL BE IN COMMODITIES OTHER THAN RICE OR COMBINATION OF RICE WITH OTHER COMMODITIES.

3. FACT OF DONATION BEING MADE THROUGH UN AGENCY AND

PARTIALLY IN RESPONSE TO UN APPEAL, RATHER THAN AS BILATERAL UNDERTAKING, MAKES A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE WHICH REF A FAILED TO HIGHLIGHT. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT WFP MAY ALREADY HAVE SOME ARRANGEMENT WITH THE RTG FOR TRANSIT OF DONATED COMMODITIES. DEPARTMENT CHECKING WITH WFP ON WHAT SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH THAILAND REGARDING OVERLAND SHIPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID DONATIONS TO LAOS.

4. FOLLOWING ARE TALKING POINTS WHICH MAY BE USED IN INFORMING RTG:

A) FOOD AID IS BEING GRANTED ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS CONSISTENT WITH U.S. POLICY OF RESPONDING TO BASIC HUMAN NEEDS.

B) WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THERE IS GENUINE NEED FOR EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF FOR LAOS. OUR VIENTIANE EMBASSY'S MOST RECENT ESTIMATE (BASED ON UNDP AND WFP RESEARCH IN LAOS) CONFIDENTIAL

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IS THAT THE NET NATIONWIDE SHORTFALL BETWEEN NOW AND OCTOBER WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 30,000 TONS AND THAT SHORTAGE IN VIENTIANE PROVINCE SHOULD BE ACUTE IN AUGUST.

C) BECAUSE OF EXISTING CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON AID TO INDOCHINA, TITLE II, PL 480 IS VIRTUALLY ONLY WAY IN WHICH USG CAN RESPOND TO LAO EMERGENCY. UNDER THIS TITLE, FOODSTUFFS MUST BE OF U.S. ORIGIN.

D) USG BELIEVES THAT THIS CONTRIBUTION OF EMERGENCY FOOD AID THROUGH MULTI-LATERAL CHANNEL SHOULD MAKE MODEST CONTRIBUTION TO REGIONAL STABILITY AND BE IN CONSONANCE WITH GENERAL GOAL, ENUNCIATED BY RTG, OF IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES OF AREA. VANCE

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 R

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DRAFTED BY:EA:VLC:JRJOHNSON

APPROVED BY:EA:VLC:FZBROWN

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R 020500Z JUN 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0459

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136987

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED MAY 31, 1978
SENT BANGKOK, VIENTIANE, GENEVA, PARIS, ROME, USUN
NEW YORK IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Concepts: PL 480, PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, RICE, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, FOOD ASSISTANCE
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Draft Date: 31 may 1978
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
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Expiration:
Film Number: D780226-0687
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: PL 480 ASSISTANCE TO LAOS
TAGS: EAID, LA, US, TH
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